

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to bus transportation; amending
3 s. 316.70, F.S.; requiring the driving records
4 of nonpublic sector bus drivers to be checked
5 for suspended or revoked licenses; amending s.
6 316.6145, F.S.; clarifying applicability of
7 requirements that school buses purchased after
8 a specified date be equipped with safety belts
9 or other restraints; providing that private
10 school students may ride on public school buses
11 and public school students may ride on private
12 school buses, subject to specified conditions;
13 providing an effective date.

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (1) of
18 section 316.70, Florida Statutes, to read:

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316.70 Nonpublic sector buses; safety rules.--

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(1) The Department of Transportation shall establish
21 and revise standards to assure the safe operation of nonpublic
22 sector buses, as defined in s. 316.003(78), which standards
23 shall be those contained in 49 C.F.R. parts 382, 385, and
24 390-397 and which shall be directed towards assuring that:

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(d) The driving records of drivers of nonpublic sector
26 buses are checked by their employers at least once each year
27 to ascertain whether the driver has a suspended or revoked
28 driver's license.

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Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
30 316.6145, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1 316.6145 School buses; safety belts or other restraint
2 systems required.--

3 (1)(a) Each school bus that is purchased new after
4 December 31, 2000, and used to transport students in grades
5 pre-K through 12 must be equipped with safety belts or with
6 any other restraint system approved by the Federal Government
7 in a number sufficient to allow each student who is being
8 transported to use a separate safety belt or restraint system.
9 These safety belts must meet the standards required under s.
10 316.614. A school bus that was purchased prior to December 31,
11 2000, is not required to be equipped with safety belts.

12 Section 3. Private school students may be transported
13 on public school buses and public school students may be
14 transported on private school buses when there is mutual
15 agreement between the local school board and the applicable
16 private school. Any agreement for private school students to
17 be transported on public school buses must be in accordance
18 with sections 768.28(9)(a) and 316.6145, Florida Statutes. Any
19 agreement for public school students to be transported on
20 private school buses must be contingent on the private school
21 bus driver's having adequate liability insurance through his
22 or her employer.

23 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.
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